

Notice of Motion, Cr Mayne: Copyright Licensing

27 October 2015

Motion

That Council requests management to:

1. pro-actively seek to promptly become licensed by the Copyright Agency Ltd before January 1, 2016 on the same terms as other comparable councils;
2. fund any 2015-16 licence fee payment from the surplus.

Background

Whilst the number is growing, less than 5% of Australian councils have a general licensing agreement with Copyright Agency Ltd, the central agency responsible for royalty payments to Australian authors, journalists and publishers for the reproduction of their original works.

Despite Melbourne being a City of Literature, City of Melbourne is not presently one of those circa 30 licensed councils.

By way of contrast, approximately 75% of all councils in the UK have a copyright licence with the equivalent agency.

100% of State & Territory and 100% of Commonwealth Government employees and departments have a copyright licence with Copyright Agency Ltd, so local councils, despite being a creation of the states, represent a gaping hole of non-compliance.

Australia's copyright industries employ 900,000 people and generate economic value equal to 9% of GDP or some \$97.7 billion annually.

Creators and publishers of original works do so because copyright delivers a means by which those works can be nurtured and protected.

Copyright is enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Article 27 (2) states: "Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author."

CAL estimates it will cost Australia's 560 councils an average of \$3600 each per year to be licensed. Preliminary discussions with CAL suggest the annual cost to City of Melbourne would be in the order of \$30,000.

At the moment, the local government sector is contributing less than \$150,000 per year in license payments to CAL, compared with the \$60 million which CAL currently receives annually from private and public schools.

City of Melbourne should show leadership to others in the local government sector by pro-actively seeking to be licensed by CAL.

Moved: Cr Mayne